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Shoo, Spy, Don't Bother Me

The case of Mark I. Kaminsky and Harvey Bennett, the two young American tourists expelled from the Soviet Union after Mr. Kaminsky was given a seven-year suspended sentence on "spy" charges, has certain comic-opera overtones.

"The treatment simply was too good," says Mr. Kaminsky. "The guards fell over themselves to do things for me." The Russians apparently wanted to be sure the case didn't unneces-

sarily hurt the tourist trade—i.e., that it didn't discourage any more ruble-rich capitalist spies from applying for visas.

The one-day trial was conducted in high good humor; the spectators "laughed often." The defendant got into long private discussions with the prosecutor, who seems to have been principally interested in whether Kennedy or Nixon would win the election.

But the rest of the story is not

comic. The two entered the Soviet Union on July 27. Mr. Kaminsky was collecting material for a book unfavorable to the Kremlin. On Aug. 25 they were arrested. American authorities were not notified. When the United States Embassy finally learned (from Mr. Bennett's wife) that they were missing, it officially inquired about their whereabouts. The Soviet government insisted it did not know—though it then had the men in custody. Repeated inquiries brought repeated Soviet denials of any knowledge.

Mr. Kaminsky was tried, found guilty and sentenced on Sept. 16.

Last week the Soviets suddenly broke their official secrecy, released the two and ordered them expelled—after extracting a promise from Mr. Kaminsky that he would not write his book. Nothing said about not reporting the results of his "spying" to Allen Dulles.

He was lucky. The two surviving members of the RB-47 crew are still incommunicado in a Soviet jail.

A reminder, in case any one had forgotten, of the place of law, justice and simple official honesty in the Soviet Union.